Library

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1964

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1964

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone No.:
Kidderminster 2237.

LAND OAK HOUSE,
KIDDERMINSTER

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. HINGLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR J. W. WARDLE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. E. BAZLEY
" C. BLOUNT
" H. DOOLITTLE
" G. R. GILLEY
" J. T. HARDY
" H. E. HICKTON
" A. E. HOBSON
" W. H. KIMBERLEE, M.B.E., J.P.
" J. PAGE
" J. POWICK
" E. SMITH
" S. SPENCER
" M. W. STAITE
" C. E. TALBOT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:
R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:
R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)
Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:
Mrs. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Operative: E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1964.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident Population mid 1964	12,320
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1964 ...	4,220
Rateable Value	£378,230
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,493

Social Conditions

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agriculture and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics

Births	Males	Females	1964 Total	1963 Total
(a) Live Births: Legitimate	109	91	200	195
Illegitimate	6	4	10	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...			17.0	16.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales			18.4	18.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			4.8	2.5
(b) Still Births: Legitimate ...	0	1	1	4
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1	0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			.16	.33
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales			16.3	17.3
(c) Total Live and Still Births	116	96	212	204

Deaths

	Males	Females	1964 Total	1965 Total
(a) Number registered for District	62	51	113	120
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			9.2	9.8
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.3	12.2
(b) Maternal Mortality			0	0
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births			0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			.25	.28
(c) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	2	0	2	4
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:				
All infants per 1,000 Live Births			9.5	20.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			10.0	20.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			0	0
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	2	0	2	2
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			9.5	10.0
Neo-natal mortality rate for England and Wales ...			13.8	14.2
(e) Early neo-natal Mortality (under 1 week)	2	0	2	1
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) ...			9.5	5.0
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			18.9	24.5
(g) Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births (under 1 year)			20.0	20.9

Causes of Death in Infants under 1 year

There were two deaths of infants under one year of age and in each case the cause was prematurity.

Causes of Death:		M.	F.
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	—
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	6
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	6	8
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	10
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	8	9
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	5	4
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	1	4
23.	Pneumonia	4	1
24.	Bronchitis	4	—
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
32.	Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	6	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
34.	All other Accidents	1	2
	Total all Causes	62	51

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Staff

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Mr. C. G. Knott, Assistant and Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board and operates from Hayley Green.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, the operational headquarters of which are based at the County Medical Officer of Health's offices at Love's Grove, Worcester—telephone numbers Worcester 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster operates a fully manned twenty-four hour service.

Nursing at Home

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practice as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the area.

Infant Welfare Centres

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area—at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the area.

The Doctor is in attendance at the clinics on the following days:—

Far Forest — 2nd Tuesday even months.

Gorst Hill — 2nd Wednesday odd months.

Wolverley — 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month.

Cookley — 2nd and 4th Friday each month.

Blakedown — 4th Thursday each month.

Wribbenhall — 3rd Tuesday each month.

Chaddesley Corbett — 1st Thursday each month.

Hospitals

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

For maternity cases beds are available in the Croft Maternity Home, Kidderminster, and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport-on-Severn, and for those requiring admission to hospital, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, and Loveday Street Hospital, Birmingham.

Tuberculosis

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment when necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6.30 p.m., Wednesday at 10.0 a.m. and Thursday at 2.0 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee.

Veneral Disease

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at The Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The major water supply in this district is obtained from the North West Worcestershire Water Board, with whom the closest contact is maintained. Results of the analysis of samples taken both mains and local are shared.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 36 samples of water from the main sources of supply for the area for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Houses in the Rural District

Parish	From Public Mains, Number of Premises	From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc. Number of Premises	Total
Wolverley	1,427	4	1,431
Upper Arley	298	15	313
Ribbesford	28	4	32
Churchill & Blakedown	487	2	489
Rock	652	19	671
Broome	96	12	108
Stone	177	19	196
Rushock	54	2	56
Kidderminster Foreign ...	356	20	376
Chaddesley Corbett ...	512	15	527
Totals	4,087	112	4,199

Percentage of houses connected to Public Mains = 97.5%

Drainage and Sewerage

Chaddesley Corbett

All houses considered fit for human habitation are now connected to the sewer. In a few cases where extensive re-conditioning is to be carried out provisions has been made for connection on completion.

Callow Hill, Rock

Conditions here are not improving and the Council are again recommended to proceed with an adequate scheme as soon as possible.

Blakedown

Despite the palliative measures taken after the breakdown in 1963 conditions here are deteriorating all the time and the Council's Modernisation scheme is really urgent. This is especially so as further properties are connecting to the system each year.

Upper Arley

It is pleasing to record that the scheme for the sewering of Upper Arley village, which was much needed, has been prepared and it is hoped that work will commence during the early part of next year.

Summary of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal to Permanent Houses

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	No. of Houses with: Pails	Septic Tanks, etc.
Wolverley	1,146	6	145
Upper Arley	42	26	114
Ribbesford	—	—	32
Churchill & Blaked'n	307	6	177
Rock	79	54	599
Broome	2	—	106
Stone	81	8	119
Rushock	10	6	46
Kidderm'ster Foreign	22	16	252
Chaddesley Corbett	310	21	277
Totals ...	1,999	143	1,867

River Pollution

River Stour and Canal

The River Stour remains heavily polluted largely from sources outside our district. We appreciate the extent of the problem faced by the River Board and my department co-operate and will help in every possible way to deal with this problem.

HOUSING

(a) Action under Housing Act during the year

Number of houses represented for Demolition Orders	7
Number of Demolition Orders made	5
Number of houses represented for Closing Orders ...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (whole houses) ...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	Nil
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders	Nil
Undertakings not to use house accepted	—
Undertakings to repair house accepted	2
Number of houses actually demolished during the year	6
Number of persons displaced	Nil

(b) Public Health Act

Houses in which defects were remedied:

After informal action by Local Authority	189
After formal action by Local Authority	Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices served	98
Intimation letters sent	40
Statutory Notices served	2

HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV — OVERCROWDING

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Immunisation against Diptheria

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before.

A further 143 children under five years of age and 14 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 261 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diptheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 89 persons were vaccinated and 15 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1964 are set out in the following table:—

Disease	Age in years									Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	5	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	2	—	1	4	1	—	1	10	—	—
Measles	2	11	13	9	8	49	2	—	2	96	2	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	1	5
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	5	—	—
Totals	2	12	15	9	10	58	4	3	13	126	3	5

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 64	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959

There are twelve factories in the district. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part 1 of the Act

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	12	18

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act — Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Outworkers in August List	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending Lists	No. of prosecutions
Making wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

Conclusion

As a result of the Council's good progress in dealing with unfit properties, re-housing their occupants and meeting the needs of people with large families and others in equally difficult circumstances, it is now time to consider the pattern required for the future. The Council has this under consideration and no doubt suitable changes will be made in the housing programme for the future.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM

Medical Officer of Health

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1964

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS

Meat

Two slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	63	Nil	1	1561	469
Number inspected	63	Nil	1	1530	451
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	.19	2.2
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned

Distomum Hepaticum	8½ lbs.
Necrosis	30½ lbs.
	39 lbs.

Milk

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

Other Foods

The following details show the position with regard to food premises:—

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions ...	47	—	216
Cafes	9	—	63
Hotels and other Licensed Premises ...	35	—	116
Works Canteens ...	1	—	4
Dairies	20	—	78
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	15
Ice Cream Retailers ...	40	40	58

There has been no necessity to bring to the notice of food traders any serious infringements of regulations. They have a good sense of their responsibilities to the general public and are willing to adopt any reasonable suggestion made by the Health Department.

There are two race meetings at Chaddesley Corbett each year, the catering arrangements for which are in the hands of reputable firms of caterers. Considering that these meetings are for one day only, standards of hygiene have been very good.

Personal contact has again been maintained with all persons handling food in the district.

Ice Cream

There is only one small Ice Cream manufacturer in this District and this being a family concern of long standing is run under very good conditions. There has been no need to draw attention to any infringement of the Regulations.

All other Ice Cream sold in the area comes from large concerns in other areas.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Number of unexpired Licences in force	10

Bakehouses

Number on Register December, 1964	2
Inspections	28

Contraventions remedied

Limewashing	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is carried out by three lorries. Two S.D. Freighters each with a crew of three and one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three.

The S.D. Freighters cover the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown, Broome, Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and give a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Bedford.

Tipping is carried out at the tip at Caunsall and methods of controlled tipping have been applied throughout the year.

Tipped at Caunsall	1459
Tipped at Wolverley	77
Tipped at Heightington	122
Total ...	1658

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the district. Up to the moment thirty-two sites comprising 604 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves are almost without exception a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites. In several instances Site Committees have been set up and these Committees have maintained the closest contact with the Council and its Officials.

Water Supply

Bacteriological samples of the water supplies in the Rural District are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows:—

	Fit	Unfit	Total
From Public Mains	36	—	36
From Private Supplies ... ... (Wells and Springs)	6	4	10

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, 1964

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:—

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts) ...	762
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	1018
Dairies	78
Fried Fish Premises	4
Infectious Disease	6
Overcrowding	201
Premises where animals are kept	178
Schools	10
Water Courses	203
Water Supply	201
Workshops	7
Provision of Dustbins	346
Miscellaneous	876
Refuse Collection	2015

SANITARY WORK

Interior of Houses

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	7
Verminous houses dealt with	Nil

Yards and Outbuildings

Dirty yards and W.C.'s cleansed by tenants	17
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	201

Drainage

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	142
Defective drains repaired	84
New drains provided	67
Sinks provided	54
Cesspools abolished	16

Water Closets

New Water Closets erected	52
Foul and obstructed water closets cleansed	45
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	79
Water closets repaired	48
Defective water supply to W.C.'s remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	320

Conversions:

Conversions of Privies to W.C.'s	Nil
Conversion of Pail Closets to W.C.'s	16

Privies and Pail Closets

New pans provided to pail closets	2

Ashpits and Dustbins

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	262
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	17

Various

Nuisance from improper keeping of animals	67

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Infestation Order, 1943

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	585
Number of other infestations dealt with	98
Number of complaints received	107

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING

A further 22 houses were erected during the year, making a total of 877 since the war. A further 26 are in the course of erection.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Officer, and the following figures are of interest:—

Number of premises licensed for storage:—

Private	4
Business	43
For Re-sale	12
Total	58

Total fees received ... ... £34 10s. 0d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licensee to any serious infringement of the Acts.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of Mr. Knott, Public Health Assistant, Mrs. I. M. Mann, Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk, and Mr. Lee, Rats and Mice Destruction Operative. I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. Chapman, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector

THE COOKLEY PRINTERS (R. L. Miller), near Kidderminster.
(Tel: Wolverley 337)